

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Our National Guard and Reserve units comprise 38 percent of America's military forces, and we are grateful for the commitment of these brave men and women; and,

*Whereas*, It is important to pay tribute to those serving our nation in the National Guard and Reserve, and to the civilian employers whose continued support enables our Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen to defend our country with honor and distinction; and,

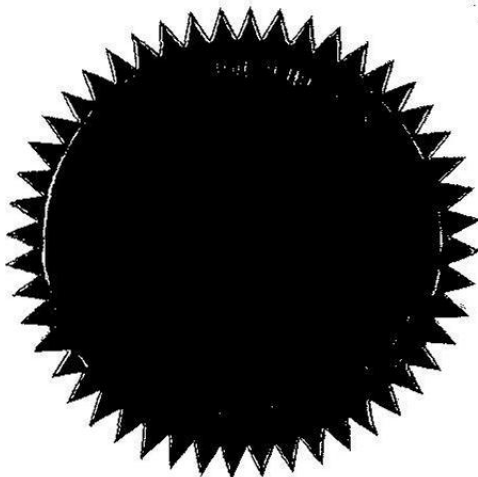
*Whereas*, Our volunteer National Guardsmen and Reservists rely on their employers for essential support and encouragement that often come at the employer's expense; and,

*Whereas*, During the week of November 16-22, 2003, members of our Armed Forces and all citizens of this nation join in recognizing and supporting those who serve in our National Guard and Reserve for the contributions and sacrifices made to help our military remain the finest fighting force in the world:

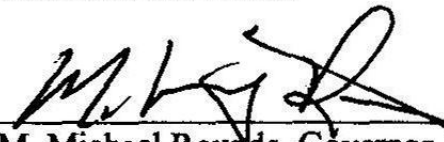
*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 16-22, 2003, as

#### **EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD & RESERVE WEEK**

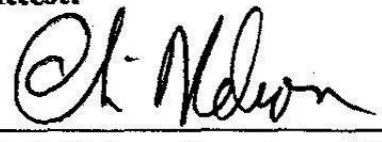
in South Dakota, and I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our nation. I also call upon state and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State